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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,755	08/09/2006	Yoshiaki Sonobe	M4782	6031
35219	7590	03/29/2011	EXAMINER	
WESTERN DIGITAL CORPORATION			HARRIS, GARY D	
ATTN: LESLEY NING / IP LAW DEPARTMENT				
3355 MICHELSON DRIVE, SUITE 100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
IRVINE, CA 92612			1785	
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			03/29/2011	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/576,755	SONOBE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	GARY D. HARRIS	1785

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2011.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,5,6,11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1, 5, 6,11 & 12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Reconsideration

Applicant's submission after final filed on 03/04/2011 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The term "no granular structure" is not enabled. A structure that has no granular structure would be an amorphous structure. A CoCrPt alloy would have crystal grains and be defined as a granular structure but would not have a granular structure where the nonmagnetic oxide would separate the grains.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sakawaki et al. 7,470,474 B2.

As to Claim 1, Sakawaki discloses a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording (see abstract and Col. 1, Line 29-35). The perpendicular magnetic recording disk has a substrate (Col. 1, Line 23) and a soft magnetic layer of a material selected from a group consisting of a Fe-based material and a Co-based material (Col. 6, Line 32-58) on the substrate (See figure 1, Col. 5, Line 44-54). A magnetic recording layer is on the soft magnetic layer and the magnetic recording layer includes a ferromagnetic layer (4) on the soft magnetic layer, having a granular structure and has crystal grains mainly made of cobalt (Co) and grain boundary portions mainly made of SiO₂ (See figure 2, Col. 9, Line 13-42 & Col. 10, Lines 55-62). A layer on the ferromagnetic layer (granular layer), has no granular structure (see figure 2, Col. 11, Line 3-10) and contains a material selected from CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃ (Col. 12, Line 1-22). The content of the SiO₂ in the ferromagnetic layer is 6at% or more (8 at% or less, Col. 10, Line 47-48 & Col. 10, Line 55-67). The perpendicular magnetic recording disk has on the substrate a soft magnetic layer (2), a

ferromagnetic layer with a granular structure (4a) and a layer having no granular structure (4b) in this order (See figure 1 & 2).

As to Claim 5, Sakawaki discloses a perpendicular magnetic recording disk, characterized in that a spacer layer (9) is selected from a group consisting of a Pd layer and a Pt layer (Col. 14, Line 1-67) and is between the ferromagnetic layer (granular layer) and the layer having no granular structure (no oxide) and is selected from CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt3, and CoPd3 (Col. 12, Line 1-22).

As to Claim 6, Sakawaki discloses a method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording (See abstract and Col. 1, Line 29-35, Col. 4, Line 62-67). A soft magnetic layer is made from a material selected from a Fe-based material and a Co-based material (Col. 6, Line 32-58) on a substrate (See figure 1, Col. 5, Line 44-54). The method is characterized by a step of forming the magnetic recording layer on a soft magnetic layer (See figure 1). The ferromagnetic layer has a granular structure using SiO₂ between crystal grains comprising cobalt (Co) (See figure 2, Col. 9, Line 13-42 & Col. 10, Lines 55-62). The content of the SiO₂ in the ferromagnetic layer is 6at% or more (8 at% or less, Col. 10, Line 47-48 & Col. 10, Line 55-67). A layer on the ferromagnetic (granular) layer has no granular structure (non-oxide in the layer) and is selected from CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt3, and CoPd3 (Col. 12, Line 1-22).

Sakawaki discloses forming the ferromagnetic layer (granular) on the soft magnetic layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere (Col. 18, Line 38-42) and then forming the layer with no granular structure from the materials consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt3, and CoPd3 (Col. 12, Line 1-22) by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere (Col. 12, Line 52-55). The method of manufacturing the perpendicular magnetic recording disk has on the substrate a soft magnetic layer (2), a ferromagnetic layer with a granular structure (4a) and a layer having no granular structure (4b) in this order (See figure 1 & 2). Sakawaki discloses using pressure in a range of 6 to 8 Pa in the formation of the granular layer (Col. 18, Line 61) while the pressure in forming the CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt3, and CoPd3 is 2 to 5 Pa (Col. 20, Line 21) and is lower than the gas pressure required in forming the granular layer. Additionally, the product by process limitation is considered but is not limited to the recited steps only the structure. See MPEP 2113 [R-1].

As to Claim 11, Sakawaki discloses a perpendicular magnetic recording disk with an underlayer including Ru (intermediate layer 8) provided between the soft magnetic layer and the ferromagnetic layer (See figure 11, Col. 15, Line 6-17).

As to Claim 12, Sakawaki discloses a method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording (See abstract and

Col. 1, Line 29-35, Col. 4, Line 62-67). A soft magnetic layer is made from a material selected from a Fe-based material and a Co-based material (Col. 6, Line 32-58) on a substrate (See figure 1, Col. 5, Line 44-54). An underlayer including Ru (intermediate layer 8) is provided between the soft magnetic layer and the ferromagnetic layer (See figure 11, Col. 15, Line 6-17).

The method is characterized by a step of forming the magnetic recording layer (4) on the underlayer(3), a ferromagnetic layer of a granular structure comprising SiO₂ between crystal grains comprising cobalt (Co) (layer 4a, see figure 2). The content of the SiO₂ in the ferromagnetic layer (granular layer) is 6at% or more (8 at% or less, Col. 10, Line 47-48 & Col. 10, Line 55-67). Above the ferromagnetic layer (granular layer) a layer having no granular structure and comprising a material selected from CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃ (Col. 12, Line 1-22). Forming the ferromagnetic layer on the underlayer is done by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere (Col. 18, Line 38-42 & (Col. 18, Line 61 discloses the Ar gas at a pressure of 6 to 8 Pa)) and then forming a layer having no granular structure from CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃ by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere at a gas pressure lower than a gas pressure used when forming said ferromagnetic layer (2 to 5 Pa, Col. 20, Line 21). Additionally, the product by process limitation is considered but is not limited to the recited steps only the structure. See MPEP 2113 [R-1]. The method of manufacturing the perpendicular magnetic recording disk has on the substrate a soft magnetic layer

(2), a ferromagnetic layer having the granular structure (4a) and a layer having no granular structure (4b) in this order (See figure 1 & 2).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed 03/16/2010 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 5, 6, 11 & 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sakawaki et al. 7,470,474 B2.

Applicant's arguments regarding the layer above the granular layer not containing a material selected from a group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt3, and CoPd3 is persuasive. The layer above the granular layer taught in Usuki is a rare earth TbFeCo layer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GARY D. HARRIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6508. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Ruthkosky can be reached on 571-272-1291. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark Ruthkosky/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1785

/G. D. H./Gary Harris
Examiner, Art Unit 1785